



# California Department of Fish and Game Deer Management Program 2006 Deer Zone Information

Wildlife Programs Branch  
1812 9th Street Sacramento, CA 95814

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## Sacramento Valley and Central Sierra Region

General Deer Hunting Information For

### **ZONE X-7a** **and** **Area-Specific Archery Hunt A-13** (Includes Additional Hunt J-19)

#### **GENERAL INFORMATION FOR DEER HUNT ZONE**

This information sheet has been prepared to assist deer hunters applying for, or planning to hunt in, Zone X-7a located in portions of Lassen, Nevada, Plumas and Sierra counties. The following information should be useful to hunters for archery season (A-13; Zone X-7a Archery Hunt), Zone X-7a general season and any "additional hunts" within this geographic area. For more specific information or additional questions regarding this area, contact the Sacramento Valley and Central Sierra Region Office, 1701 Nimbus Road, Rancho Cordova, CA 95670 (916-358-2900).

#### **REGULATIONS**

Laws and regulations are designed to conserve wildlife and to provide for an equitable distribution of game mammals. The hunter who knows the laws and regulations can enjoy the hunting experience more. All hunters should read and be familiar with the current hunting regulations available online at:

<http://www.fgc.ca.gov/html/regs.html>

The 2006 deer hunting regulations specific for Zone X-7a (general season tag), Area-Specific Archery Hunt A-13 (archery season only tag), and any additional hunts are at the end of this sheet.

To hunt deer during the archery season in Zone X-7a, hunters must possess an A-13 hunt tag (Zone X-7a Archery Hunt). This tag is valid **ONLY** during the prescribed archery season and **may not** be used to hunt deer during the general zone season, even if using archery equipment.

To hunt deer during the general season (rifle) in Zone X-7a, a hunter must possess a Zone X-7a tag. This tag is valid **ONLY** during the prescribed general season for that zone. These tags **may not** be used to hunt deer during the Hunt A-13 archery season, even if using archery equipment.

This zone is a popular deer hunting area with lower tag quotas. Any additional deer hunts in Zone X-7a are listed in the Additional Deer Hunts section, below. Typically, tags for Zone X-7a, Hunt A-13 and any additional deer hunts are in high demand and distributed through the Department's Big Game Drawing held in June. To hunt in this area, hunters must plan ahead and are encouraged to submit hunt applications by late May. For information regarding deer tag application procedures and obtaining a deer tag for this area, see the Big Game Hunting Booklet, available on-line at:

<http://www.dfg.ca.gov/licensing/biggame/biggamebook.html>

Successful hunters are reminded to immediately fill out both portions of the tag and permanently mark the date of kill; attach the tag to the antlers, or ear if antlerless; have the tag validated and countersigned; and return the completed report card portion to the Department within 30 days of taking a deer.

### **LAND OWNERSHIP/PUBLIC LAND OPPORTUNITIES**

Zone X-7a contains a mixture of both public and private lands. Remember you must obtain and have in your possession written permission to hunt on private property. Hunter trespass laws are strictly enforced. Public lands within Zone X-7a are administered by the Humboldt-Toiyabe and Tahoe National Forests (USFS) and the Bureau of Land Management (BLM). For information regarding these lands contact the following:

#### **USFS Offices:**

Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest, 1200 Franklin Way, Sparks, NV 89431 (775-331-6444)  
Tahoe National Forest, 631 Coyote St., P.O. Box 6003, Nevada City CA 95959 (530-265-4531)

#### **BLM Offices:**

Carson City Field Office, 5665 Morgan Mill Road, Carson City, Nevada 89701 (775-885-6000)

In Zone X-7a and other zones throughout California, additional deer hunting opportunities may exist on private property licensed through the Department's Private Lands Management Program (PLM). For more information on the PLM and to obtain a list of participating ranches, go to the following link:

<http://www.dfg.ca.gov/hunting/deer/plm.html>

### **MAPS**

For general maps detailing individual zone or additional deer hunt boundaries, go to the following link:

[http://www.dfg.ca.gov/hunting/deer/deer\\_maps.html](http://www.dfg.ca.gov/hunting/deer/deer_maps.html)

The most comprehensive map of the area is the Tahoe National Forest map. USFS maps are available at all USFS offices or you can contact the USFS Pacific Southwest Regional Office at: 1323 Club Drive, Vallejo, CA 94592 (707-562-8737).

BLM surface management maps may also be useful. You can purchase these maps at BLM district offices or you can contact the BLM at 2800 Cottage Way, Suite W-1834, Sacramento, CA 95825 (916-978-4400).

U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) topographic maps, are very helpful, especially for topographic features that are not displayed on USFS or BLM maps. USGS maps may be available from sporting goods, backpacking or engineering stores or you can contact the USGS directly at: Rocky Mountain Mapping Center, Branch of Information Services, Box 25286, Denver, CO 80225 (888-ASK-USGS).

### **ACCESS/MAJOR ROADS**

Major access to Zone X-7a is provided by Highways 80 and 89. North of Highway 80 and west of Highway 89, private lands are checker boarded throughout much of the Tahoe National Forest.

### **WEATHER CONDITIONS/TRAVEL TIPS**

The weather in this region is highly variable so BE PREPARED. In most years, storms arrive during the deer season. Although storms are usually not serious, hunters should always be prepared for the event of a storm. Snow may fall at higher elevations but normally lasts only a short time. Roads usually dry out quickly. Most of the area is accessible with a two-wheel drive vehicle. Four-wheel drive may be required in some locations. Due to the complex road system in the Tahoe National Forest, horse packing and backpacking are not necessary. However, if you choose to horse pack in, remember that it may be necessary to carry supplemental horse feed into the back country. Contact the local USFS and/or BLM office for more information regarding forage conditions for livestock. You should be prepared with appropriate clothing and equipment for a variety of weather conditions.

Zone X-7a covers a large geographic area. The terrain can be very steep and rugged and vegetation can

be extremely dense. As you should do in all remote areas, hunters are urged to bring a shovel, a good spare tire, extra water, etc. Use care when operating any vehicle off-road and check with the BLM or USFS for rules and regulations regarding vehicle and travel restrictions in the area.

### **CAMPING**

There are several USFS campgrounds within the Zone X-7a and these are shown on the map of the Tahoe National Forest. Informal camping is allowed on both USFS and BLM lands, but campfire permits are required. Permits may be obtained from any USFS, BLM or California Department of Forestry (CDF) office. During fire season, special regulations may apply and it is best to contact the local USFS, BLM or CDF office for the latest information. Commercial lodging facilities are available in Truckee and Portola.

Please, DO NOT camp or hunt for prolonged periods near water sources important to wildlife and livestock. Remaining for over 30 minutes and within 200 yards of an artificial water source including guzzlers or horizontal wells on public lands within California is a Fish and Game violation (Title 14, Section 730). You can pack water, wildlife can't.

### **HARVEST INFORMATION**

Information on deer harvest for this area is available in tables contained in the annual Deer Kill Reports available on-line at: <http://www.dfg.ca.gov/hunting/deer/deerhunt.html> The most useful tables for the purposes of planning or applying for hunts in this area are Tables 1b (Harvest and Success Information), 2a (Antler Class Information) and 10b (Drawing Statistics).

### **HERD CONDITIONS AND HABITATS**

The deer population in Zone X-7a is considered stable to declining, yet considerably below levels seen in the late 1960's and 1970's. As with most deer herds in California and other western states, the long-term population trend has been on a steady decline since the 1960's and 1970's. These long-term declines have been due to land management practices that have precluded fire, resulting in changes toward more mature and less diverse habitats, and reduced quality and quantity of deer habitats. Short-term fluctuations in deer populations are usually attributed to weather events that affect forage production.

The subspecies of deer inhabiting Zone X-7a is primarily the Rocky Mountain mule deer however you may encounter some Columbian black-tailed deer. Deer in Zone X-7a are considered migratory. However, hunter success has been better at lower elevations, since the drought in the late 1980's. Early storms may result in some deer movement, but deer generally do not migrate down towards winter ranges until serious storms with moderate to heavy snowfall hit later in the season.

The vegetation is highly varied throughout Zone X-7a ranging from low sage, sagebrush, bitterbrush, aspen, hardwood-conifer, conifer and juniper to alpine habitats. Generally speaking, deer populations in this area respond favorably to vegetation disturbances that enhance brush species (wildfire and timber harvesting). Riparian areas (areas along watercourses), recently burned areas or clear cuts that have re-sprouted with brush are good areas to hunt. Typically, lower densities of deer are observed in the more densely forested areas or in older, more decadent brushlands.

### **HUNTING TIPS AND WHERE TO LOOK FOR DEER**

Successful hunters often spend a considerable amount of time scouting pre-season, locating individual or groups of deer, recently used deer trails, and feeding and bedding areas. You may not see many deer from the roads in this area and generally the more successful hunters do more hiking to locate deer. Binoculars and/or spotting scopes can be very helpful for locating and identifying deer at greater distances. In general, attempt to hunt areas that are away from other activities such as concentrations of hunters, vehicles, and/or livestock.

Generally, the best hunting is near stands of bitterbrush, mountain mahogany, or tall sagebrush, and clear cuts that have re-sprouted with brush. The habitat varies from sagebrush flats at the lower elevations to mixed conifer forests to rimrock areas covered by mountain mahogany at the higher elevations. Historically, some of the more popular and productive areas in Zone X-7a include: Sardine Peak, Lemon Canyon, Dark Canyon, Lake of the Woods, Crystal Peak and Babbit Peak.

For additional information about deer hunting in California, see the Department's publication "Guide To Hunting Deer In California" at the following web site:

<http://www.dfg.ca.gov/hunting/deer/deerguide.pdf>

### **ADDITIONAL DEER HUNTS**

In 2006, one additional hunt opportunity exists in Zone X-7a: 1) Hunt J-19 (Zone X-7a Junior Either-Sex Deer Hunt). For general maps detailing the individual hunt area boundaries, go to the following link:

[http://www.dfg.ca.gov/hunting/deer/deer\\_maps.html](http://www.dfg.ca.gov/hunting/deer/deer_maps.html)

### **2006 ZONE AND ADDITIONAL HUNT SPECIFIC REGULATIONS**

#### **§ 360. Deer.**

Except as otherwise provided in this Title 14, deer may be taken only as follows:

##### **(b) X-Zone Hunts.**

###### **(10) Zone X-7a.**

(A) Area: In those portions of Lassen, Nevada, Plumas and Sierra counties lying within a line beginning at the junction of Highway 395 and the California-Nevada state line at Bordertown; south along the Long Valley Road (County Road S570) to its intersection with the Henness Pass Road (County Road S860); west on Henness Pass Road over Summit 2 to the intersection with County Road S450 (near the Davies Creek Campground at Stampede Reservoir); west on County Road S450 (the Henness Pass Road) through Kyburz Flat to its intersection with Highway 89; south on Highway 89 to its intersection with Interstate 80 at Truckee; west on Interstate 80 to the Pacific Crest Trail near the Castle Peak-Boreal Ridge Summit; north on the Pacific Crest Trail to the new road to White Rock Lake (one mile west of White Rock Lake in section 21, T18N, R14E, M.D.B.M.); north on the new White Rock Lake Road below Bear Valley to the White Rock Lake Road; north on the White Rock Lake Road to the Jackson Meadows Highway (Fiberboard Road); east two miles on the Jackson Meadows Highway to the Yuba Pass Road at Webber Lake; north on the Yuba Pass Road (main haul road) through Bonta Saddle to Highway 49 at Yuba Pass; west on Highway 49 to the new Gold Lake Road at Bassetts; north on the new Gold Lake Road to Highway 89 near Graeagle; north on Highway 89 to Highway 70; east on Highway 70 to Highway 395 at Hallelujah Junction; south on Highway 395 to the point of beginning.

(B) Season: The season in Zone X-7a shall open on the first Saturday in October and extend for 16 consecutive days.

(C) Bag and Possession Limit: One buck, forked horn (See subsection 351(a)) or better, per tag.

(D) Number of Tags: 220.

##### **(c) Additional Hunts.**

###### **(41) J-19 (Zone X-7a Junior Either-Sex Deer Hunt).**

(A) Area: In those portions of Lassen, Nevada, Plumas and Sierra Counties within the area described as zone X-7a (see subsection 360(b)(10)(A)).

(B) Season: The season for additional hunt J-19 (Zone X-7a Junior Either-Sex Deer Hunt) shall be concurrent with the zone X-7a general season as defined in subsection 360(b)(10)(B).

(C) Bag and Possession Limit: One either-sex deer (see subsection 351(c)) per tag.

(D) Number of Tags: 25.

(E) Special Conditions:

1. Only junior license holders shall apply (see subsection 708(a)(2)).

2. Tagholders shall be accompanied by an adult chaperon 18 years of age or older while hunting.

###### **(44) Conditions for Special Hunts.**

(A) When hunting on military reservations or private lands, hunters shall have in their possession a written permit signed by the landowner, which may specify where and when the permittee may hunt.

(B) When required, tagholders shall check in and check out of designated check stations.

#### **§ 361. Archery Deer Hunting.**

(b) Archery Hunting With Area-specific Archery Tags. Deer may be taken only with archery equipment specified in Section 354, only during the archery seasons as follows:

###### **(11) A-13 (Zone X-7a Archery Hunt).**

(A) Area: As described in subsection 360(b)(10)(A).

(B) Season: The archery season for hunt A-13 (Zone X-7a Archery Hunt) shall open on the third Saturday in August and extend for 23 consecutive days.

(C) Bag and Possession Limit: One buck, forked horn (see subsection 351(a)) or better per tag.

(D) Number of Tags: 30.

(c) Archery Hunting with Archery Only Tags. Deer may be taken only with archery equipment specified in Section 354, during the archery seasons and general seasons as follows:

(1) Number of Archery Only Tags Permitted. A person may obtain an archery only tag using a one-deer tag application and a second archery only tag using a second deer tag application.

(2) Zones in Which Archery Only Tags are Valid. An archery only tag is valid for hunt G-10, and during the archery season and general season in all zones except C-1 through C-4 and X-1 through X-12.

(3) Areas: As described in subsections 360(a) and (c).

- (4) Seasons: The archery season and general seasons are provided in subsection 361(a) above and in subsections 360(a) and (c).
- (5) Bag and Possession Limit: All bag and possession limits per zone are the same as those described in subsections 360(a) and (c).
- (d) Hunting Area Limitations. Archers not in possession of an archery only tag may hunt only in the zone, zones, or areas for which they have a general tag or an area-specific archery tag. (Refer to subsection 361(c)(2) for zones in which archery only tags are valid).
- (e) Crossbow Prohibition. Except as provided in subsection 354(j), crossbows may not be used during any archery season or during the general season when using an archery only tag.

\*\*\*\* GOOD LUCK! \*\*\*\*